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TikTok settles as social media giants face landmark trial over youth addiction claims

By **KAITLYN HUAMANI and BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writers
LOS ANGELES (AP) — TikTok agreed to settle a landmark social media addiction lawsuit just before the trial kicked off, the plaintiff's attorneys confirmed.

The social video platform was one of three companies along with Meta's Instagram and Google's YouTube facing claims that their platforms deliberately addict and harm children. A fourth company named in the lawsuit, Snapchat parent company Snap Inc., settled the case last week for an undisclosed sum.

Details of the settlement with TikTok were not disclosed, and the company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

At the core of the case is a 19-year-old identified only by the initials "KGM," whose case could determine how thousands of other, similar lawsuits against social media companies will play out. She and two other plaintiffs have been selected for bellwether trials essentially test cases for both sides to see how their arguments play out before a jury and what damages, if any, may be awarded, said Clay Calvert, a nonresident senior fellow of technology policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute. Joseph VanZandt, co-lead counsel for the plaintiff, said in a statement Tuesday that TikTok remains a defendant in the other personal injury cases, and that the trial will proceed as scheduled against Meta and YouTube.

Jury selection starts this week in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. It's the first time the companies will



Young people use their phones to view social media in Sydney, Nov. 8, 2024.

argue their case before a jury, and the outcome could have profound effects on their businesses and how they will handle children using their platforms. The selection process is expected to take at least a few days, with 75 potential jurors questioned each day through at least Thursday. A fourth company named in the lawsuit, Snapchat parent company Snap Inc., settled the case last week for an undisclosed sum.

"This was only the first case there are hundreds of parents and school districts in the social media addiction trials that start today, and sadly, new families every day who are speaking out and bringing Big Tech to court for its deliberately harmful products," said Sacha Haworth, executive director of the nonprofit Tech Oversight Project. KGM claims that her use of social media from an early age addicted her to the technology and exacerbated depression and suicidal thoughts. Importantly, the lawsuit claims that this was done through deliberate design choices made by companies that sought to make their platforms more addictive to children to boost profits.

This argument, if successful, could sidestep the companies' First Amendment shield and Section 230, which protects tech companies from liability for material posted on their platforms.

"Borrowing heavily from the behavioral and neurobiological techniques used by slot machines and exploited by the cigarette industry, Defendants deliberately embedded in their products an array of design features aimed at maximizing youth engagement to drive advertising revenue," the lawsuit says.

Executives, including Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, are

expected to testify at the trial, which will last six to eight weeks. Experts have drawn similarities to the Big Tobacco trials that led to a 1998 settlement requiring cigarette companies to pay billions in health care costs and restrict marketing targeting minors.

"Plaintiffs are not merely the collateral damage of Defendants' products," the lawsuit says. "They are the direct victims of the intentional product design choices made by each Defendant. They are the intended targets of the harmful features that pushed them into self-destructive feedback loops."

The tech companies dispute the claims that their products deliberately harm children, citing a bevy of safeguards they have added over the years and arguing that they are not liable for content posted on their sites by third parties.

"Recently, a number of lawsuits have attempted to place the blame for teen mental health struggles squarely on social media companies," Meta said in a recent blog post. "But this oversimplifies a serious issue. Clinicians and researchers find that mental health is a deeply complex and multifaceted issue, and trends regarding teens' well-being aren't clear-cut or universal. Narrowing the challenges faced by teens to a single factor ignores the scientific research and the many stressors impacting young people today, like academic pressure, school safety, socio-economic challenges and substance abuse."

A Meta spokesperson said in a statement Monday the company strongly disagrees with the allegations outlined in the lawsuit and that it's "confident the evidence will show our longstanding commitment to supporting young people."

José Castañeda, a Google Spokesperson, said Monday that the allegations against YouTube are "simply not true." In a statement, he said "Providing young people with a safer, healthier experience has always been core to our work."

TikTok did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

The case will be the first in a slew of cases beginning this year that seek to hold social media companies responsible for harming children's mental well-being. A federal bellwether trial beginning in June in Oakland, California, will be the first to represent school districts that have sued social media platforms over harms to children. □

Associated Press

Japanese American soldiers once branded 'enemy aliens' promoted posthumously

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Seven Japanese American soldiers were promoted to officer ranks in a solemn ceremony Monday, eight decades after they died fighting for the U.S. during World War II despite having been branded "enemy aliens."

White flower lei adorned framed photos of the men displayed in a Honolulu military memorial park and received salutes as their family members watched from tents shielding them from rain that stopped as the ceremony began. The seven were students at the University of Hawaii and cadets in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, on track to become Army officers, when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. They initially served in the Hawaii Territorial Guard, but soon after the attack the U.S. barred most Japanese Americans from service and deemed them enemy aliens.

The seven cadets instead worked with a civilian labor battalion known as "Varsity Victory Volunteers," which performed tasks such as digging ditches and breaking rocks, until American leaders in early 1943 announced the formation of a segregated Japanese American regiment. The seven were among those who joined the unit, known as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The combat team, along with the 100th battalion comprised of mostly Japanese Americans from Hawaii, went on to become one of the most decorated units in U.S. history. Some of its soldiers fought for the Allies even as their relatives were detained in Japanese American internment camps because they were considered a public danger.

"It is important for us to really kind of give back and recognize our forefathers and these veterans that we stand on the shoulders of," said 1st Sgt. Nakoa Hoe of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment, what the unit is now known as in the Army Reserve. He noted the once-segregated unit now includes a "multitude of cultures."

The seven "sacrificed so much at a challenging time when their loyalty to their country was questioned and they even had family members imprisoned," he added. The seven men Daniel Betsui, Jenhatsu Chinen, Robert Murata, Grover Nagaji, Akio Nishikawa, Hiroichi Tomita and Howard Urabe died fighting in Europe in 1944. All but Murata were killed during the campaign to liberate Italy from Nazi Germany. Murata was killed by an artillery shell in eastern France.

Murata's nephew, Todd Murata, 65, grew up hearing about his uncle's sacrifice. "It's an honor to be related to one of those people, those men, who volunteered for service," he said. "After all these years, people still remember them."

He was among the relatives who watched as the men were promoted to 2nd lieutenant, the rank they would have attained had they completed the ROTC program. Urabe's niece, June Harada, said the ceremony helps heal some injustice from the past. "Growing up, even though I wasn't belittled for my race, there wasn't a lot of pride," she said. "It's nice to have our uncle recognized for this huge sacrifice that he made."

Even though Hawaii was not yet a state, the cadets were American citizens because they were born in Hawaii after its annexation in 1898.

Monday's ceremony capping efforts to honor the men comes amid growing concern that President Donald Trump's administration is whitewashing American history ahead of the nation celebrating 250 years of its independence. □



This combo image made with photos provided by the U.S. Army Pacific shows, from left to right, University of Hawaii ROTC cadets Jenhatsu Chinen, Daniel Betsui and Howard Urabe, top row, and Hiroichi Tomita, Grover Nagaji, Robert Murata and Akio Nishikawa, bottom row.

Associated Press

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Trump's immigration crackdown led to drop in US growth rate last year as population hit 342 million

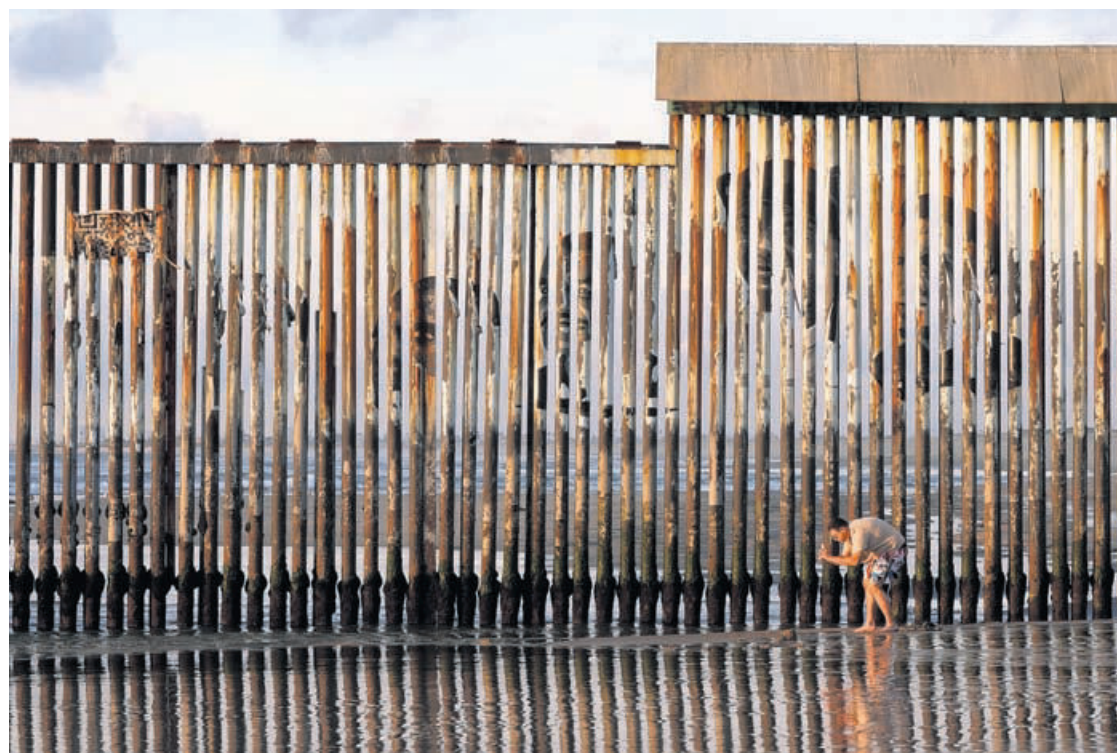
By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration contributed to a year-to-year drop in the nation's growth rate as the U.S. population reached nearly 342 million people in 2025, according to population estimates released Tuesday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 0.5% growth rate for 2025 was a sharp drop from 2024's almost 1% growth rate, which was the highest in two decades and was fueled by immigration. The 2024 estimates put the U.S. population at 340 million people.

Immigration increased by almost 1.3 million people last year, compared with 2024's increase of 2.8 million people. If trends continue, the gain from immigrants in mid-2026 will drop to only 321,000 people, according to the Census Bureau, whose estimates do not distinguish between legal and illegal immigration.

In the past 125 years, the lowest growth rate was in 2021, during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, when the U.S. population grew by just 0.16%, or 522,000 people and immigration increased by just 376,000 people because of travel restrictions into the U.S. Before that, the lowest growth rate was just under 0.5% in 1919 at the height of the Spanish flu.



A man takes an image with his phone next to where the border wall separating Mexico and the United States reaches the Pacific Ocean Jan. 28, 2025, in Tijuana, Mexico.

Associated Press

Births outnumbered deaths last year by 519,000 people. While higher than the pandemic-era low at the beginning of the decade, the natural increase was dramatically smaller than in the 2000s, when it ranged between 1.6 million and 1.9 million people.

Lower immigration stunts growth in many states

The immigration drop dented growth in several states that traditionally have been immigrant magnets.

California had a net population loss of 9,500 people in 2025, a stark change from the previous year, when it gained 232,000 residents, even though roughly the

same number of Californians already living in the state moved out in both years. The difference was immigration since the number of net immigrants who moved into the state dropped from 361,000 people in 2024 to 109,000 in 2025.

Florida had year-to-year drops in both immigrants and people moving in from other states. The Sunshine State, which has become more expensive in recent years from surging property values and higher home insurance costs, had only 22,000 domestic migrants in 2025, compared with 64,000 people in 2024, and the net number of immigrants dropped from more than

411,000 people to 178,000 people.

New York added only 1,008 people in 2025, mostly because the state's net migration from immigrants dropped from 207,000 people to 95,600 people. South Carolina, Idaho and North Carolina had the highest year-over-year growth rates, ranging from 1.3% to 1.5%.

Texas, Florida and North Carolina added the most people in pure numbers. California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Vermont and West Virginia had population declines.

The South, which has been

the powerhouse of growth in the 2020s, continued to add more people than any other region, but the numbers dropped from 1.7 million people in 2025 to 1.1 million in 2025.

"Many of these states are going to show even smaller growth when we get to next year," Brookings demographer William Frey said Tuesday.

The effects of Trump's immigration crackdown

Tuesday's data release comes as researchers have been trying to determine the effects of the second Trump administration's immigration crackdown after the Republican president returned to the White House in January 2025. Trump made a surge of migrants at the southern border a central issue in his winning 2024 presidential campaign.

The numbers made public Tuesday reflect change from July 2024 to July 2025, covering the end of President Joe Biden's Democratic administration and the first half of Trump's first year back in office.

The figures capture a period that reflects the beginning of enforcement surges in Los Angeles and Portland, Oregon, but do not capture the impact on immigration after the Trump administration's crackdowns began in Chicago; New Orleans; Memphis, Tennessee; and Minneapolis, Minnesota. □



Katherine Schneider shovels out a vehicle for the fourth time during the storm on Route 100 on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, in Jamaica, Vt., after Winter Storm Fern dropped several inches of snow.

Associated Press

Shoveling snow? Over-exertion and cold temps can raise your heart risks

By **The Associated Press**

Digging out from the weekend's massive snow and ice storm could be hazardous to your heart.

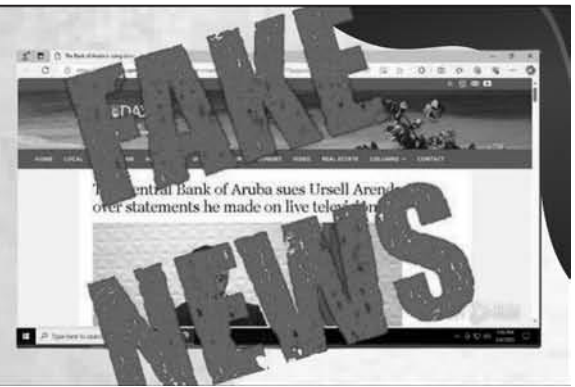
Pennsylvania health officials announced three snow-removal related deaths Sunday. All were between the ages of 60 to 84. The Lehigh County coroner's office cautioned people to take breaks and avoid over-exerting themselves. Shoveling snow is heavy, hard work research has shown that doing it for even a short time can make the heart work as hard as it does during a major workout. Adding to that stress, the cold temperatures cause

blood vessels, including those feeding the heart, to constrict. That raises blood pressure which in turn increases the risk of a heart attack, stroke or cardiac arrest, according to the American Heart Association. Snow shoveling is especially risky for anyone with known heart disease or who's already survived a heart attack, as well as older adults and people with risk factors including high blood pressure or cholesterol. People who think they're healthy can get in trouble, too, with that combination of heavy exertion in cold weather especially if they're generally sedentary until a snowstorm comes along. □

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In surprise move, Spain will grant legal status to thousands of immigrants lacking permission

By RENATA BRITO
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Spain's government announced Tuesday it will grant legal status to potentially hundreds of thousands of immigrants living and working in the country without authorization, the latest way the country has bucked a trend toward increasingly harsh immigration policies imposed in the United States and much of Europe.

The extraordinary measure will be implemented by expediting a decree to amend immigration laws, according to Spanish Minister of Migration Elma Saiz, bypassing a similar bill that has stalled in parliament. Eligible immigrants will be granted up to one year of legal residency as well as permission to work. In contrast to other nations that have moved to restrict immigration and asylum, many emboldened by the Trump administration's policies, Spain has moved in the opposite direction with Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and his ministers often extolling the benefits of legal migration to the country's economy and aging workforce.

Spain "will not look the other way," Saiz told journalists during a press conference. The government is "dignifying and recognizing people who are already in our country," she said.

The measure could benefit an estimated 500,000 people living in Spain without authorization, Saiz said. Other organizations have estimated up to 800,000 people live in the shadows of Spanish society. Many are immigrants from Latin American or African countries working in the



A migrant carries his belongings at an abandoned school building where hundreds of mostly undocumented migrants had been living, in Badalona, near Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025.

agricultural, tourism or service sectors, backbones of Spain's booming economy. Foreigners who arrived in Spain before Dec. 31, 2025 and can prove they have been living in the country for at least five months will be eligible. They must also prove they have no criminal record.

Saiz said she expects those eligible will be able to start applying for their legal status from April until the end of June.

She added that resources would be in place to process them smoothly and efficiently after a union representing Spain's national police officers, responsible for processing applications, warned of a possible collapse.

Supporters call it a victory amid other countries' hostile policies

The Spanish government's move came as a surprise to many after a last-minute deal between the ruling

Socialist Party and the leftist Podemos party in exchange for parliamentary support to Sánchez's wobbly government.

Irene Montero, a European Parliament lawmaker with Podemos who first announced the deal Monday, contrasted Spain's move with immigration enforcement in the U.S., where the Trump administration has come under intense criticism for its operations, particularly in Minnesota.

"If they kidnap children, murder and terrorize people, we give them papers," she said during a rally alongside migrant rights activists. The news was celebrated by hundreds of migrant rights groups and prominent Catholic associations who had campaigned and obtained 700,000 signatures for a similar initiative.

"We are not used to these victories," said Silvana Cabrera, a spokesperson for

the migrant campaigning group RegularizaciónYa, or RegularizationNow in English, as she held back tears. The movement was born in the COVID-19 pandemic when many vulnerable immigrants worked essential jobs with little to no rights or protections.

In a statement Tuesday, the Spanish Episcopal Conference called the move an "act of social justice and recognition of so many migrants who, through their work, have long contributed to the development of" Spain. "At a time when a hostile environment against migrants is spreading on both sides of the Atlantic, this move shows both humanity and common sense," said Laetitia Van der Venet, senior advocacy officer at PICUM, a European network of migrant rights organizations.

Benefits for immigrants and the economy

It's not the first time Spain has granted amnesty to immigrants who are in the

country illegally: It has done so six times between 1986 and 2005.

"There was a strong impact on the workforce, not only legalizing the status of workers but creating formal jobs," said Anna Terrón Cusi, a senior fellow at the Migration Policy Institute think tank who previously worked on immigration policy for multiple Spanish governments, including Sánchez's.

The measure will allow Spain to "reset the counter" ahead of the implementation in June of the new European migration and asylum pact which relies heavily on deportations as a solution to irregular migration, she said. Terrón added that by granting legal status to migrants in the country irregularly, Sánchez is giving rights and protections to undocumented workers while also benefiting the Spanish economy. "In the end, telling people that immigration is bad may appeal to them, but deporting the woman who cleans their house is a different story," she said.

Opposition slams the move

Center-right and far-right parties criticized the government's announcement. Alberto Núñez Feijóo, leader of the conservative Popular Party, accused Sánchez of trying to distract from a deadly train crash earlier this month that left 46 dead.

Meanwhile, Santiago Abascal, leader of the anti-immigration, far-right party Vox, wrote on social media that Sánchez "hated" Spaniards and was "accelerating an invasion," echoing a racist conspiracy theory often used by right-wing extremists. □

World pauses to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Holocaust survivors, politicians and regular people commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Tuesday, gathering at somber events across Europe and beyond to reflect on Nazi Germany's killing of millions of people.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed across each year on Jan. 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the most notorious of the Nazi German death camps. The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2005 establishing the day as an annual commemoration.

"The attempt, carried out by Nazi Germany, to erase the Jews from the face of Europe encapsulates, in an emblematic way, all the evil that human beings are capable of committing when they allow themselves to be infected out of superficiality, indifference, cowardice, or self-interest by the virus of hatred, racism, and oppression," Italian President Sergio Mattarella said in a gathering with survivors in Rome. At Auschwitz, located in an area of southern Poland which was under German



White roses placed on a concrete slab of the Holocaust memorial to mark the International Holocaust Memorial Day in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026.

Associated Press

occupation during World War II, Polish President Karol Nawrocki joined survivors for a remembrance ceremony that ended with Jewish and Christian clergy reciting prayers.

Bernard Offen, a 96-year-old survivor told participants that in today's world he sees "signs I know too well." "I see hatred resurgent. I see violence beginning to be justified once again," Offen said. "I see people who believe their

anger is more valuable than another human life. I say this because I am an old man who has seen where indifference leads to. And I say this because I believe that I truly believe that we can choose differently."

Nazi German forces killed some 1.1 million people at Auschwitz, most of them Jews, but also Poles, Roma and others. The camp was liberated by the Soviet army on Jan. 27, 1945. In all, 6 million Jews were killed in the

Holocaust in ghettos, concentration camps and shot at close range in the fields and forests of Eastern Europe.

In the heart of Berlin, candles burned at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, a field of 2,700 gray concrete slabs which honors the 6 million victims and stands as a powerful symbol of Germany's remorse.

Other countries are still struggling to come to terms with

the complicity of their ancestors. Mattarella condemned the complicity of ordinary Italians in the fascist-era racial laws, which persecuted Italy's Jewish community, and deportation of its Jews. As in recent years, Russia representatives were not invited to the observances at Auschwitz due to the country's invasion of Ukraine.

'Become my witness'

Pavel Jelinek, a 90-year-old survivor from the city of Liberec a Czech city with a prewar Jewish population of 1,350 told those gathered in the upper house of the Czech Parliament that he was now the last living of the 37 Jews who returned to the city after the war.

There are an estimated 196,600 Jewish Holocaust survivors still alive globally, down from 220,000 a year ago, according to the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Their median age is 87, and nearly all some 97% are "child survivors" who were born 1928 and later, the group said.

Though the world's community of survivors is shrinking, some are still telling their stories for the first time after all these years. □

NATO chief wishes 'good luck' to those who think Europe can defend itself without US help

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte insisted on Monday that Europe is incapable of defending itself without U.S.

military support and would have to more than double current military spending targets to be able to do so. "If anyone thinks here ...

that the European Union or Europe as a whole can defend itself without the U.S., keep on dreaming. You can't," Rutte told EU lawmakers in Brussels. Europe and the United States "need each other," he said.

Tensions are festering within NATO over U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed threats in recent weeks to annex Greenland, which is a semiautonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark.

Trump also said that he was slapping new tariffs on Greenland's European backers, but later dropped his threats after a "framework" for a deal over the mineral-rich island was

reached, with Rutte's help. Few details of the agreement have emerged.

The 32-nation military organization is bound together by a mutual defense clause, Article 5 of NATO's founding Washington treaty, which commits every country to come to the defense of an ally whose territory is under threat.

At NATO's summit in The Hague in July, European allies with the exception of Spain plus Canada agreed to Trump's demand that they invest the same percentage of their economic output on defense as the United States within a decade.

They pledged to spend 3.5% of gross domestic product on core defense, and a further 1.5% on security-related infrastructure a total of 5% of GDP by 2035.

"If you really want to go it alone," Rutte said, "forget that you can ever get there with 5%. It will be 10%. You have to build up your own nuclear capability. That costs billions and billions of euros." France has led calls for Europe to build its "strategic autonomy," and support for its stance has grown since the Trump administration warned last year that its security priorities lie elsewhere and that the Europeans would have to fend for themselves. □



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, second left, arrives to address the Security and Defence Committee at the European Parliament in Brussels, Monday, Jan. 26, 2026.

Associated Press

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Blackstone Beach

Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock For-

mation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you



further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern

ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a “kroket,” which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the “bitterbal”.

These two snacks are typically



found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San

Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing “batido”? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors



carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- Along the main road next to the airport field.
- At the California Light House.
- At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert “cocada” or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Aruba's underwater wonderland



(Oranjestad)—Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many

fascinating under water spots you can explore. So take your snorkeling gear and visit some of these top places for underwater exploration.

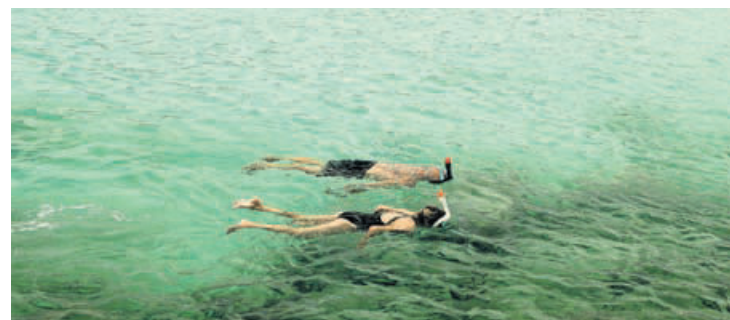
Tres Trapi

'Tres Trapi' means three steps in Papiamentu. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by a tiny stairway carved into the rocky coastline. Tres Trapi is a small beach, located on the north-western side of the island, an approxi-

mately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you walk right into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While you're snorkeling, you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animals, keep your distance and just enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in



Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken WWII ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

low and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Further in the lagoon, you'll find a lot of people snorkeling. This is an excellent spot to go under water exploring—but do take care not to go too far out; outside the lagoon the waves can be pretty rough! In the lagoon there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. The main entrance to reach the beach is through a small bridge that takes you through the mangrove trees. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, accompanied with wooden stairs built to allow easy access to the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you'll find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is snorkel heaven. □

The Casino Aruba at Hilton & Liv Casino introduce Interblock Smart Pit — A First-Of-Its-Kind Craps & Blackjack Experience outside the USA



"We are thrilled to bring a world-class gaming innovation like the Interblock Smart Pit to Aruba," said Alexina Van Den Berg, Multi-Property Marketing Manager for The Casino Aruba at Hilton and LIV Casino. "This reinforces our commitment to delivering premium and engaging casino entertainment in the Caribbean."

Guests at The Casino Aruba at Hilton and LIV Casino at Barceló can now experience the future of table gaming. Follow both casinos on social media for the latest updates and promotions. □

The Casino Aruba at Hilton and LIV Casino, flagship properties of the Island Gaming Group, proudly announce the launch of the Interblock Smart Pit, featuring Craps and Blackjack, making Aruba the first island and country outside the United States to offer this next-generation casino experience.

This innovative debut marks a major evolution in live table gaming, combining the excitement of traditional casino play with dealer-assisted advanced table game technology from global gaming innovator Interblock.

The award-winning Smart Pit enhances classic table games through live dealer interaction, automated systems, and chip-less wagering — all while preserving the energy and social thrill of live play.



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Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the

then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps



office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offer-

ing a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.



Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's City Center Street Car – or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" – is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered street-car operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the is-

land's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the

cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center – it is free for all! ☐





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Episode 339– CCCXXXIX

Birds, Memory, and a Vanishing Aruba

The articles written by Etnia Nativa focus on the recovery and preservation of Aruba's authentic cultural identity and unique heritage. Each one revives the ancestral wisdom of the island's first inhabitants—knowledge passed down through generations, including survival skills, the use of medicinal plants, practical crafts, astronomical navigation, and the interpretation of weather patterns. These traditions continue to shape Aruba's cultural identity and affirm the enduring bond between the island, its people, and the land.

In this episode, Etnia Nativa turns its attention to an often-overlooked aspect of Aruba's natural world: the native pigeons and doves that share the island's skies and landscapes.

Aruba's sunlit horizons and semi-arid terrain, dotted with cacti and thorny scrub, are not only a paradise for beachgoers but also home to a modest yet fascinating variety of pigeons and doves from the Columbidae family. While the island does not host hundreds of permanent bird species, those that do thrive here tell compelling stories of adaptation, coexistence with humans, and Caribbean biodiversity.

Though frequently overlooked, these birds play an important ecological role. They help disperse seeds, support local food chains, and contribute to the rich tapestry of Caribbean birdlife. For both seasoned birdwatchers and curious visitors, spotting these species—from the swift Bare-Eyed Pigeon to the humble ground doves—offers a glimpse into the natural rhythms of island life.

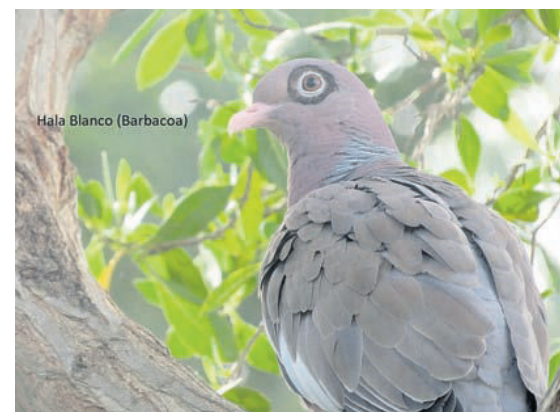
Among Aruba's most distinctive birds is the Bare-Eyed Pigeon (*Patagioenas corensis*), locally known as Hala Blanco or Babacoa. This medium-sized pigeon is easily recognized by its striking pale blue eye ring outlined in black, giving it an alert, expressive appearance. Preferring thorn scrub, cactus groves, and

mangroves, it feeds on seeds, fruits, and grains. Quick to take flight at the slightest disturbance, the Hala Blanco remains one of Aruba's most recognizable wild pigeons.

Several dove species are also permanent residents across the island. The Common Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina*), known locally as Totolica, is small and inconspicuous, often seen basking in the sun or foraging for seeds along the ground. It is widespread in scrubland, coastal areas, parks, and gardens. This species is also found on Curaçao and Bonaire, as well as in Venezuela, where it is known as tortolita—a Spanish term associated with companionship and love.

These native breeding species demonstrate how pigeons and doves have adapted to Aruba's semi-arid climate, nesting and feeding both in natural environments and near human communities.

No overview of Aruba's pigeon family would be complete without mentioning an introduced species: the Rock Dove (*Columba livia*), commonly known as the city pigeon and referred to as flying rats. Originally native to Europe and Asia, it was introduced to Aruba and is now a familiar sight in urban areas. Feeding on grains and food scraps, it has adapted closely to human presence and often a nesting pest on rooftops and buildings.



Historical records also mention the Scaly-Naped Pigeon (*Patagioenas squamosa*), a species once observed on the island. Today, sightings are extremely rare, and it may be locally extinct. Any report of this striking bird is highly valued by birdwatchers.

Other notable residents include the Eared Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*), or Hala duro a relative of North America's Mourning Dove, which thrives in open landscapes and agricultural areas, or cunucos. Its soft, rhythmic coos are a familiar sound in the countryside. The White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*), or Buladeifi slightly shyer in nature, prefers wooded areas and mangroves, where its elegant white tail tips offer a subtle flash of beauty.□

Through stories like these, Etnia Nativa reconnects the community with the many layers of Aruba's history—where indigenous knowledge, colonial change, and oral tradition intersect. It reminds us that the past is still alive in the land, in its wildlife, and in the stories passed from one generation to the next.

Visitors are invited to step beyond the beaches and resorts and engage with the heart and soul of Aruba's heritage by visiting Etnia Nativa, by appointment only:
WhatsApp +297 592 2702
etnianativa03@gmail.com .



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to find the anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you're visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean Sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the anchor come from?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles

and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How did the anchor become a landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr., local businessman. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas

area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr. died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete

pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The best time to visit

When you're planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. ☐



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Phone button
7 Track event
11 Meeting slate
12 Mideast sultanate
13 Flying copycat
15 Foster of film
16 Conks out
18 St. Louis sight
21 Small change
22 Patriotic song
24 Switch setting
25 Drill part
26 Mine yield
27 Beyond what's acceptable
29 Expand
30 Screws up
31 Mires
32 Region of northern India
34 Wee hoverer
40 "Got it"
41 Aviator Earhart
42 Household critters
43 Milk buy

DOWN

- 1 Flock father
2 Sense of self
3 Winter mo.
4 Printer type
5 "Bye!" in Baja
6 Touch down
7 Poet Frost
8 French friend
9 Sedan or SUV
10 Purpose
14 Ferber novel
16 "Robinson Crusoe" writer
17 Due to get
19 Guitarist's concern
20 Long sand-wiches
21 Barracks bed
22 Melody
23 Kitten cry
25 Deep singers
28 Picture holders
29 TV's Bryant
31 Molten rock
33 Un-expected problem
34 Stylish
35 Try out
36 Got together
37 Unwell
38 Carnival city
39 Dapper fellow

T	A	B	L	E	F	O	C	A	L
S	T	O	O	D	O	N	I	C	E
A	M	O	N	G	R	E	T	R	O
		E	A	S	E	Y	E	N	
I	M	P	E	R	I	A	L		
N	O	R	A		C	R	O	O	K
C	L	O	G	S		M	A	M	I
A	T	P	L	A		N	I	L	E
		E	V	A	N	S	T	O	N
B	A	T		O	O	H			
A	B	H	O	R		S	A	B	L
G	L	A	R	E		E	R	R	O
S	E	W	E	D		S	K	A	T

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15							
	16	17					18		19	20
21							22			23
24				25					26	
27			28					29		
	30						31			
				32			33			
34	35	36						37	38	39
40							41			
42							43			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

WY ZXJ SWGD RX PD K AJMBVDB,
W EKMR RX SWGD RX PD K
AJMBVDB FWMJH XMD BKZ
HX W MDGDV AKGD RX
SWGD EWRAXJR ZXJ. — K.K.
FWSMD

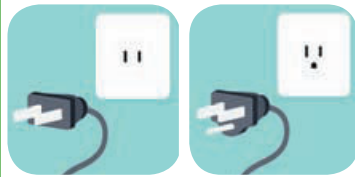
Cryptoquote: IT IS LOVE ... THAT
IS THE TRUE EXPLANATION OF THIS WORLD,
WHATEVER MAY BE THE EXPLANATION OF THE
NEXT. — OSCAR WILDE

Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 28 - 31 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
WED	28	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	11.00	20.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	29	COSTA PACIFICA	07.00	22.00	B	1
		AIDASOL	08.00	18.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN DAWN	11.00	20.00	I	1
FRI	30	MS RENAISSANCE	09.00	18.00	B	1
		EXPLORA II	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	31	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	****	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	21.00	C	1
		CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	I	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	1	5			2		3	
		3		8				
8	6						4	
	7		8			1		
5	8	1			4	7		
					7		8	3
		2				9	7	
	3	8		6			5	
		6	2			3		

Difficulty: ★★★

1/28

Answer to previous puzzle

7	2	1	5	4	9	8	6	3
5	8	9	3	6	7	4	1	2
3	6	4	1	8	2	5	9	7
4	5	2	9	1	3	6	7	8
8	9	7	6	2	4	1	3	5
6	1	3	7	5	8	2	4	9
9	4	5	2	7	6	3	8	1
2	7	6	8	3	1	9	5	4
1	3	8	4	9	5	7	2	6

Difficulty: ★★

1/27



The AREA Services building in Shamokin, Pa. is decorated in pink ribbons and bras for Breast Cancer Awareness month, Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012.

Associated Press

What to know about breast self-awareness and how it fits into cancer prevention

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN
AP Science Writer

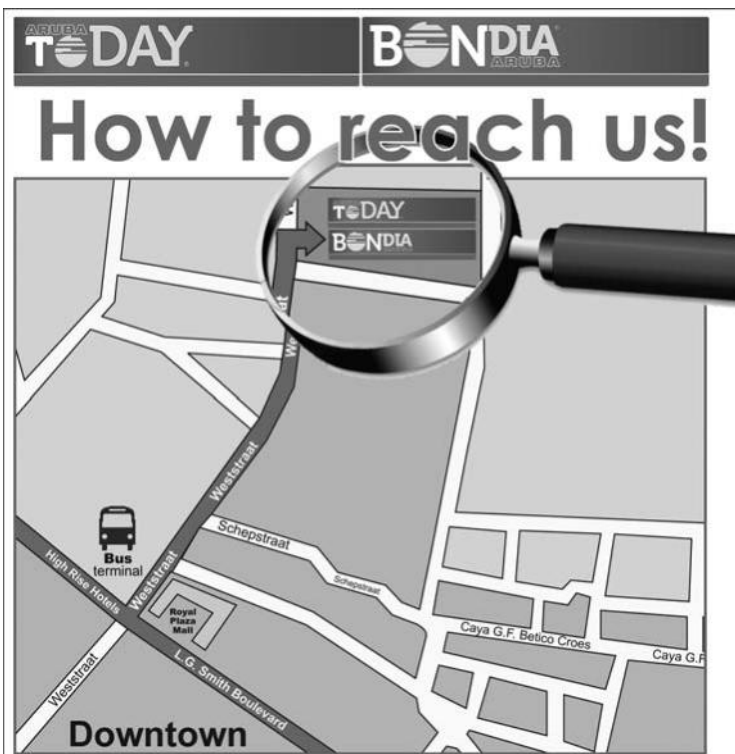
NEW YORK (AP) — What does it mean to have breast self-awareness?

It's a more general, flexible approach to breast cancer prevention that involves staying familiar with how your breasts look and feel. It goes along with other early detection measures like getting regular mammograms.

Doctors suggest breast self-awareness as an alternative to self-exams those monthly, methodical checks for any changes while applying pressure or lying down.

Two decades ago, the American Cancer Society stopped recommending self-exams for people with average breast cancer risk because there wasn't strong evidence they helped if people were taking other preventative measures like regular mammograms. And the monthly checks made some patients anxious about every change, especially those with dense or naturally bumpy breast tissue.

"Let's say you bring 100 women into an auditorium and you teach them how to do it, and then they go home and do it. We don't find any more cancers than if all of those women had mammograms according to our guidance," said Dr. Arif Kamal, chief patient officer for the American Cancer Society. □



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6 ground floor 6 1st floor
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Le Vent

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Divi Village

Eagle beach
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Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Resort

Eagle Beach
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week # 5 Room #3524
Price :\$ 10,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Resort

Eagle beach
1 BR sleep 4
week # 2 room # 5538
Top floor
Price :\$10,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Shelley Read's debut novel 'Go as a River' becomes a global sensation

By **HILLEL ITALIE AP**
National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — From her house up high in Colorado's Elk Mountains, author Shelley Read can only look out in amazement at the worldwide success of her debut novel, "Go as a River." "There were upward of 30 translations already secured before the novel was introduced in the U.S.," says Read, a fifth-generation Coloradan who lives with her husband in Crested Butte, in a home they built themselves. "And that is when I was like, 'Oh my goodness.' It's thrilling, scary, magnificent."

Published in 2023 by Spiegel & Grau, "Go as a River" received little major review attention beyond trade publications when first released and its honors are mostly regional, including a High Plains Book Award and a Reading the West Book Award. But her novel has been a hit in the U.S. and well beyond, appearing

ing on bestseller lists everywhere from North America to Scandinavia and selling more than 1 million copies.

Mazur Kaplan, co-founded by producer Paula Mazur and independent book seller Mitchell Kaplan, is working on a film adaptation. Eliza Hittman, whose credits include the award-winning "Never Rarely Sometimes Only," is expected to direct.

Read's 300-page novel spans from the 1940s to the 1970s, and centers on a 17-year-old Colorado farm girl's ill-fated romance with an itinerant Indigenous man and how it haunts and changes lives for decades to come. "Go as a River" proves that some books can break through without high-profile endorsements or author name recognition. It also adds the 61-year-old Read to a special list of first-time authors from Frank McCourt to Louis Begley middle aged or older who finally get around to that book they had been meaning to write and receive wide acclaim.

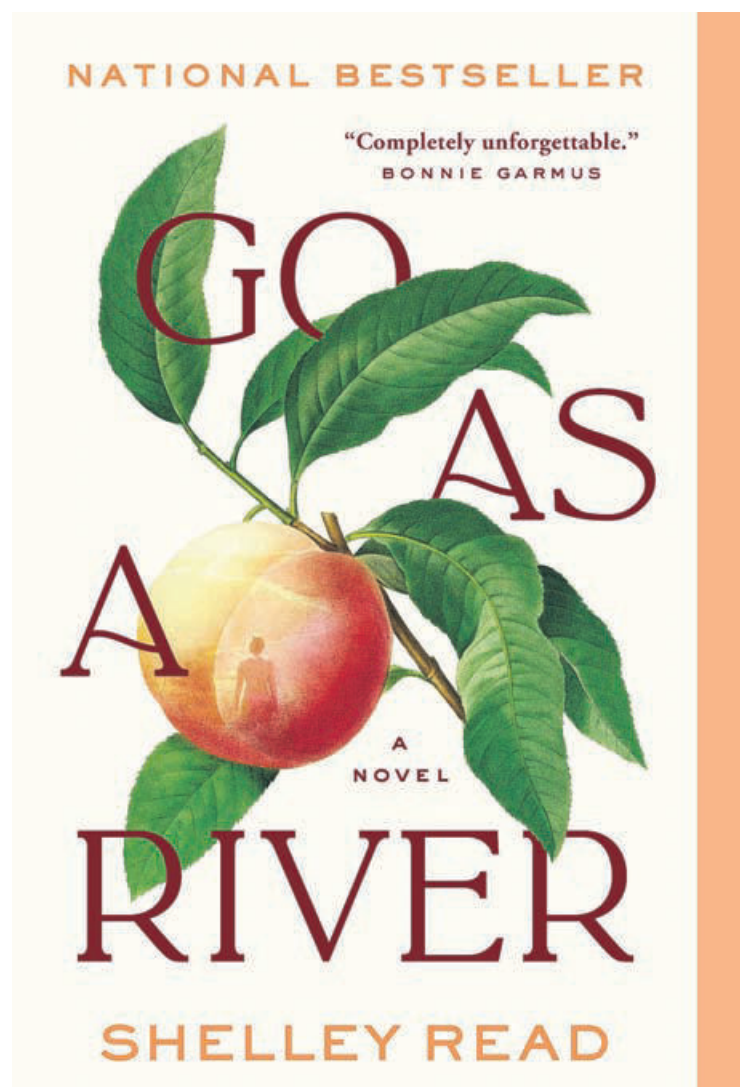
"What she's done is un-

usual," says Spiegel & Grau co-founder Cindy Spiegel. "Every now and then someone comes along who has a vision that they've held for many, many years and they really do write it down. Most people don't."

A native of Colorado Springs, Read is a graduate of the University of Denver who has a master's degree from Temple University's creative writing program. She is a longtime educator who parsed and absorbed so many books, with works by Virginia Woolf and Czeslaw Milosz among her favorites, that one of her own inevitably came out on the other end.

A teacher with a story of her own

For nearly three decades, she taught writing and literature among other subjects at Western Colorado University. During that time, a character kept turning up in her thoughts, the germ of what became her novel's protagonist, Victoria Nash. There was something about Victoria, an empathetic quality, Read related to. But she had her ca-



This cover image released by Spiegel & Grau shows "Go as a River" by Shelley Read. (Spiegel & Grau via

Associated Press

reer and two young children, and "was just trying to keep my head above water as a super busy mom and with a lot of very intense challeng-

es." With Victoria unwilling to leave her be, Read began jotting down notes on Post-its, napkins and other papers that might be around. □



Editor

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Editors

Pilar Flores

Richard Brooks

Angenette Figueroa

Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@ArubaTodayNews

Neil Young's gift to Greenland: Free access to his entire music catalog

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Young is giving the people of Greenland the gift of song his songs, that is.

The veteran rocker announced Tuesday on his blog that he is providing free access to his entire music catalog to residents of Denmark's semiautonomous territory, whose futures have lately become a point of tension between the U.S. and NATO.

"I hope my music and music films will ease some of the unwarranted stress and threats you are experiencing from our unpopular and hopefully temporary government," Young wrote. "It is my sincere wish for you to be able to enjoy all of

my music in your beautiful Greenland home, in its highest quality." The offer is for a year though Young said renewing is possible and applicants need to have a Greenland-based cellphone. "This is an offer of Peace and Love," he

wrote.

The offer is in stark contrast to Young's recent decision to deny listeners his catalog on the streaming Amazon Music platform, a swipe at its founder, Jeff Bezos, who has supported U.S. President Donald

Trump.

"Amazon is owned by Jeff Bezos, a billionaire backer of the president," Young wrote last week. "The president's international policies and his support of ICE make it impossible for me to ignore his actions. If you feel as I do, I strongly recommend that you do not use Amazon."

A representative for Amazon Music didn't immediately respond for comment. Young's manager also didn't reply to questions.

Young has long sparred with streaming platforms, like when he pulled his music from Spotify in protest of podcaster Joe Rogan's episodes on COVID-19 vaccines. □



Neil Young performs at the BottleRock Napa Valley Music Festival in Napa, Calif., on May 25, 2019.

Associated Press



Sabalenka, Svitolina to meet in semis after Gauff's racket-shattering exit, Alcaraz sails through

By JOHN PYE
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— A searing hot day turned into a sweltering night at the Australian Open and eventually Coco Gauff let off steam, shattering her racket after a lopsided loss to Elina Svitolina that cost her a place in the semifinals. Day 10 of the season-opening major began with top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka beating 18-year-old Iva Jovic 6-3, 6-0 on Tuesday before the Extreme Heat Policy was activated and the roof was closed on Rod Laver Arena.

The center court was still under cover when No. 12 Svitolina stunned the third-seeded Gauff 6-1, 6-2 in 59 minutes to earn a semifinal against Sabalenka.

The men's quarterfinals also were split into day and night sessions, with one played under a roof and the other under the stars. Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz moved within two wins of completing a career



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus plays a forehand return to Iva Jovic of the U.S. during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026.

Grand Slam after a 7-5, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Australia's Alex de Minaur to close play.

In his first semifinal in Australia, Alcaraz will take on 2025 runner-up Alexander Zverev, who beat 20-year-old Learner Tien 6-3, 6-7 (5),

6-1, 7-6 (3) under cover in an afternoon match.

They're 6-6 in head-to-heads, with Zverev winning the quarterfinal here in 2024, their only meeting in Australia.

"It's going to be a great battle," Alcaraz said. "I'm

looking forward to playing him here, taking revenge."

Associated Press

Svitolina's streak

Weeks into a return from a mental health break, Svitolina is in the semifinals here for the first time, and is on a 10-match winning streak

after starting the season with a title in Auckland, New Zealand.

The series of wins will put her back into the Top 10 next week.

"Very pleased with the tournament so far and, of course, always been my dream to come back after maternity leave in the Top 10," said Svitolina, a 31-year-old Ukrainian who is playing her 12th major tournament since taking a break in 2022.

She and Gael Monfils, the French player who is retiring this year, are parents to Skai.

Svitolina lost quarterfinals here in 2018, 2019 and last year, but she dominated Gauff from the outset. The 21-year-old American struggled with her serve and recorded five double-faults in the first set, when she was broken four times. She finally held in the fourth game of the second set, but by then it was too late. □



New York Yankees' Cody Bellinger runs the bases after hitting a home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cody Bellinger and the New York Yankees finalized a \$162.5 million, five-year contract on Monday that keeps the

slugger in pinstripes. Bellinger became the last of the top free-agent hitters to reach a deal this offseason when the sides agreed

Cody Bellinger and the Yankees finalize \$162.5 million, 5-year contract

to terms last Wednesday, subject to a successful physical. He gets a \$20 million signing bonus, half payable April 1 and the remainder on Aug. 1, and a full no-trade provision. He receives a \$32.5 million salary in each of the first two seasons, \$25.8 million in the next two and \$25.9 million in 2030.

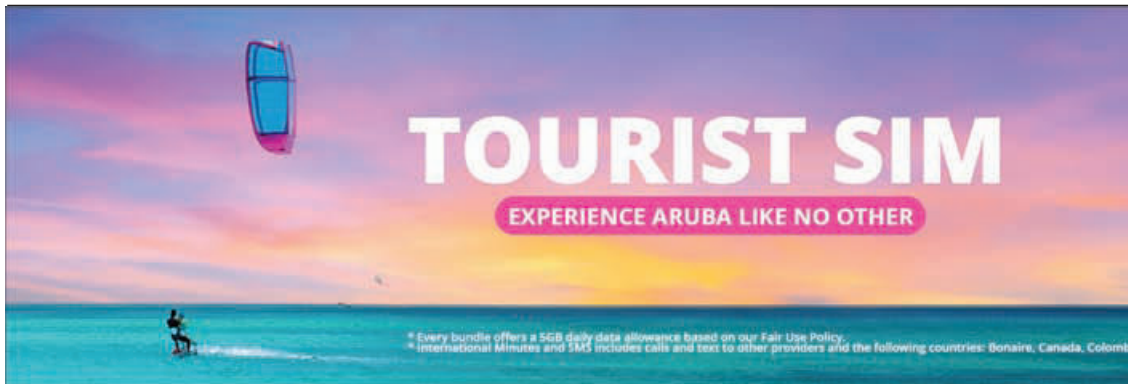
Bellinger has the right to opt out after the 2027 or 2028 seasons to become a free agent again, but if there is a work stoppage

that leads to no games being played in 2027, the agreement specifies the opt outs will shift to after the 2028 and 2029 seasons. A two-time All-Star acquired by the Yankees from the Chicago Cubs in December 2024, Bellinger hit .272 with 29 homers and 98 RBIs last year including .302 with 18 homers and 55 RBIs at Yankee Stadium. A left-handed hitter, he played 149 games in the outfield and seven at first base in his first season since 2022 without a stint on the

injured list.

He is a son of former Yankees player Clay Bellinger.

Voted the 2017 National League Rookie of the Year and 2019 NL MVP, Bellinger has a .261 career batting average with 225 homers and 695 RBIs in eight seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers (2018-22), the Cubs (2023-24) and the Yankees. He earned \$57.5 million from the \$80 million, three-year contract he reached with the Cubs before the 2024 season. □



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Buffalo Bills offensive coordinator Joe Brady stands on the field before an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Nov. 9, 2025, in Miami Gardens, Fla. Associated Press

Bills promote offensive coordinator Joe Brady to take over as head coach

By JOHN WAWROW
AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — The Buffalo Bills stayed in-house by promoting offensive coordinator Joe Brady as their new head coach on Tuesday, in a move that provides continuity to a Josh Allen-led perennial winner that has accomplished everything short of reaching a Super Bowl.

The team announced the five-year deal.

The 36-year-old Brady just completed his fourth season in Buffalo and his second full season as coordinator. He previously served as quarterbacks coach before taking over the offense after Ken Dorsey was fired midway through the 2023 season.

Brady's promotion came a little more than a week after Sean McDermott was fired following a nine-year tenure. He has no previous head coaching experience over eight NFL seasons. Brady broke into the league with the New Orleans Saints by spending two seasons as an offensive assistant under Sean Payton. He left the Saints to serve as passing game coordinator on LSU's 2019 national championship team. Considered an up-and-coming head coaching candidate, Brady returned to the NFL by taking over as the Carolina Panthers offensive coordinator before being fired late into the 2021 season.

Brady shared a bond with McDermott, as both played college at William & Mary. Brady played receiver and upon graduating in 2012, he took on a role with the Tribe as linebackers coach.

Brady was the first to interview for the Bills job in a search that began on Jan. 21. Aside from Buffalo, Brady also interviewed for five other NFL openings, including still-existing vacancies in Arizona and Las Vegas.

Buffalo eventually met with nine candidates in an interview process led by general manager Brandon Beane that included Allen. Buffalo was the 10th and final team to have a coaching vacancy, and missed out on interviewing John Harbaugh, who was hired by the New York Giants.

Among the candidates were former Giants coach Brian Daboll, who was Buffalo's offensive coordinator before landing the job in New York. The Bills also interviewed Jacksonville offensive coordinator Grant Udinski and 44-year-old quarterback Philip Rivers, who removed his name from consideration three days after meeting with Buffalo.

Under Brady, the Bills offense took a far more balanced approach in part to take the burden off Allen. Brady also introduced what became known as an "Everybody Eats," share-the-wealth approach to the passing game, which followed Buffalo trading leading receiver Stefon Diggs to Houston in April 2024. The approach worked the following season, with Allen earning AP NFL MVP honors for his 28 touchdowns passing (plus 12 rushing) and a career-low six interceptions and a receiving group led by Khalil Shakir's 76 catches for 821 yards. □

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